

Another Identity for PAC?

STEPHEN STEERE has sent to me a letter from a Mr. STANLEY WILSON who, as an office boy Aug.1940 to Oct.1941, was working in the Public Assistance Department of the Shire Hall, Old Elvet, Durham City. Although he had little interest in the job - having volunteered for the R.A.F. and was desperately awaiting his call-up - he does remember using a stamp perforating machine which regularly jammed when he put in too many stamps.

The department had an un-paid COMMITTEE who considered every request for "more money because of hardship". (He remembers in 1944 his paternal grandfather came to live with his parents and his only income being 10/- per week O.A.P. he received 11/- per week from the PUBLIC ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE). The money was sent weekly by postal order and a receipt and pre-paid envelope were enclosed.

Although Mr. Wilson cannot remember anything else about the perforator he does recall the letters being perforated were PAC in some shape or form. In Tilles there is one PAC die not identified 12A P.A/C 10,10/8 5hmm. I have this on a 1d EVII used as a receipt stamp with a pen signature. This could perhaps link up with the information about a receipt being sent out with the payments. Have any members copies of P.A/C with DURHAM postmarks?

This little story illustrates most graphically why I find the collecting of perfins, particularly on cover and documents, so, fascinating. So much Social History is revealed by the discovery of the usages of many of our perfins.